

*- This paper presented at meeting in DCI*

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7 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Photo Coverage of Cuba

1. After a review of our current requirements for intelligence on Cuba and the results obtained by our overflight program during recent weeks, I believe that our requirements for future coverage of Cuba should be stated as follows:

a. We need complete photo coverage of the entire island once a week in order to avoid being taken by surprise by new developments in areas not targeted.

b. In addition, we need coverage of each highest priority target at least once a week, whether or not total coverage of the island had been completed. Operations planning should be based on this objective, since it simplifies many mission planning problems.

c. By once a week we mean once during any 7-day period rather than once each calendar week. In the latter case, it would be possible to go from Sunday of the first week until Saturday of the second week without coverage of highest priority targets. This is too long a gap. A tickler file should be set up and the operations planners automatically notified if any highest priority target has not been covered in the past 7 days.

2. It should be noted that we are talking about successful photo coverage of targets and not about numbers of missions. The number of missions required to fulfill the needs outlined above may vary greatly depending on weather conditions and the type of mission planned. For example, under optimum weather conditions and with proper mission planning the entire island can be covered in two, or at most three, missions. On the other hand, in times of bad weather and if some other task is influencing mission planning, it may take 10 or more missions to acquire complete coverage.

3. I recommend that you try to persuade the Special Group to authorize the photographic coverage outlined above without being tied to any given number of missions per day, and we could report to them as frequently as the Special Group wishes how many missions are in fact being required.

RAY S. CLINE  
Deputy Director (Intelligence)